

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1 - 31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) A method for distributed image processing, comprising:

receiving both image data and image related data regarding user images from a user computer, the image data being pre-processed by a user on the user computer and in a ~~binary-large-objects~~ relatively low resolution format, the image related data comprising an image description, an image capture date, and an image price;

storing the received image data and the received image related data in a host database;

providing a customer computer access to the stored image data and the stored image related data;

receiving an image request for at least a subset of the user images from the customer computer;

adding a JPEG header to the stored image data for each of the requested user images to generate modified image data for each of the requested user images;

transmitting both the modified image data and the stored image related data for each of the requested user images to the customer computer;

receiving an image order from the customer computer, the image order identifying a desire to purchase at least one of the requested user images;

in response to the image order, receiving the at least one of the requested user images from the user computer in a relatively high resolution format; and

transmitting both the modified image data and the stored image related data the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format to an image laboratory.

33. (Currently amended) A method for distributed image processing, comprising:

receiving both image data and image related data regarding user images from a user computer, the image data being manipulated by a user on the user computer and in a ~~binary large objects~~ relatively low resolution format, and the image related data comprising at least one of an image description, an image capture date, and an image price;

storing the received image data and the received image related data in a host database;

sending at least a portion of the stored image related data to a customer computer;

receiving an image request for at least a subset of the user images from the customer computer;

changing the format of the requested user images by adding a JPEG header to the stored image data for each of the requested user images to generate modified image data for each of the requested user images;

receiving an image order from the customer computer, the image order identifying at least one of the requested user images;

receiving in response to the image order the at least one of the requested user images from the user computer in a relatively high resolution format; and

transmitting both the modified image data and the stored image related data for each of the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format to a remote location.

34. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 33, wherein transmitting both ~~the modified image data and the stored image related data~~ the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format comprises transmitting ~~both the modified image data and the stored image related data~~ the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format to an image laboratory.

35. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 33, wherein transmitting both ~~the modified image data and the stored image related data~~ the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format comprises transmitting ~~both the modified image data and the stored image related data~~ the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format to an image output device.

36. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 33, wherein transmitting both ~~the modified image data and the stored image related data~~ the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format comprises transmitting ~~both the modified image data and the stored image related data~~ the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format to the customer computer.

37. (Currently amended) A system for distributed image processing, comprising:

a user computer, the user computer storing image data regarding user images manipulated by a user with the user computer, the image data being in the form of binary large objects both relatively low and relatively high resolution formats;

at least one customer computer; and

a host site in communication with the user computer, the at least one customer computer, and the an image laboratory;

wherein the host site is adapted to:

receive both the image data in the relatively low resolution format and image related data from the user computer, the image related data comprising at least one of an image description, an image capture date, and an image price;

store the received image data and the received image related data in a host database;

provide the at least one customer computer access to the stored image data and the stored image related data

receive an image request for at least a subset of the user images from the at least one customer computer;

add a JPEG header to the stored image data for each of the requested user images to generate modified image data for each of the requested user images;

receive an image order from the at least one customer computer, the image order identifying a desire to purchase at least one of the requested user images;

receive the at least one of the requested user images from the user computer in the relatively high resolution format; and

transmit both the modified image data and the stored image-related data for each the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format to at least one of the at least one customer computer and an image laboratory.

38. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 37, wherein the host site is further adapted to transmit ~~both the modified image data and the stored image related data for each~~ the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format to an ~~both the at least one customer computer and the~~ image laboratory.

39. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the step of receiving the at least one of the requested user images from the user computer in a relatively high resolution format, further comprises the user computer periodically polling the host computer to determine whether the image order has been received by the host computer and to receive identifying information of the at least one of the requested user images, the identifying information being used by the user computer to provide the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format to the host computer.

40. (New) The method of Claim 39, wherein the step of transmitting the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format to an image laboratory, further comprises an image laboratory computer periodically polling the host computer to determine whether the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format has been received by the host computer and, if so, receiving the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format.

41. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the step of receiving in response to the image order the at least one of the requested user images from the user computer in a relatively high resolution format, further comprises the user computer polling the host computer to determine whether the image order has been received by the host computer and to receive identifying information of the at least one of the requested user images, the identifying information being used by the user computer to provide the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format to the host computer.

42. (New) The method of Claim 34, wherein the step of transmitting the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format to an image laboratory, further comprises an image laboratory computer polling the host computer to determine whether the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format has been received by the host computer.

43. (New) The system of Claim 37, wherein the user computer is adapted to periodically poll the host site to determine whether the image order has been received by the host computer and to receive identifying information of the at least one of the requested user images, the identifying information being used by the user computer to provide the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format to the host site.

44. (New) The system of Claim 37, further comprising an image laboratory computer, the image laboratory computer being adapted to periodically poll the host site to determine whether the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format has been received by the host site.

45. (New) The system of Claim 43, further comprising an image laboratory computer, the image laboratory computer being adapted to periodically poll the host site to determine whether the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format has been received by the host site and, if so, to request the at least one of the requested user images in the relatively high resolution format.